

DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF MND DECLASSIFICATION PROJECT 785072,  
H.D. MAYER, NARS, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982



MISSING AIR CREW REPORT

9060

Classification   
 O   
 OCCUR

Y. A. G. ...   
 Y. F. M. ...   
 ...   
 Command or Air Force 15th AF   
 Squadron 778th Bomb Sq   
 Place of departure Pantanella AAB, Italy Course Northeast   
 Target Blechhammer, Germany Type of mission Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED: haze.   
 Scattered Cirrus, clear below, 4 to 5/10 alto cumulus. Vis-15-20 miles in

4. GIVE: (a) Date 13 Oct 44 Time 11:20A Last known position Blechhammer, Germany   
 (b) Specify whether: ( ) Last sighted, ( ) Forced down, (X) Seen to crash,   
 ( ) Last contacted by radio, ( ) No information.

5. AIRCRAFT (B-24J) (BELIEVED LOST) AS A RESULT OF: (Check one only)   
 ( ) Enemy aircraft, (X) Enemy anti-aircraft, ( ) Other

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, model & series B-24J AAF Serial Number 44-41043

7. NICKNAME OF AIRCRAFT "Be Commin Back"

8. ENGINES: Type, m. de. & series R-1830-65A AAF Serial Number (a) BP-440673   
 (b) BP-440389 (c) BP-440648 (d) BP-443516

9. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Make, type and serial number) All Browning 50 Cal.   
 (a) Left Nose 1203901 (e) Right Nose 1203984 (i) Left Tail 1201855   
 (b) Left Upper 1203609 (f) Right Upper 1538256 (j) Right Tail 1201950   
 (c) Left Ball 1202124 (g) Right Ball 1201895 (k)   
 (d) Left Waist 1537949 (h) Right Waist 1537948 (l)

10. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (X) Battle Casualty, ( ) Non-Battle Casualty.   
 11. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 ; Passengers 0 ; Total 10   
 (If more than 12 persons aboard aircraft, use separate sheet.)

CREW POSITION	FULL NAME (Last, first, initial)	RANK, SERIAL NUMBER	CURRENT NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP STATUS AND ADDRESS
(1) Pilot	BORG, RAYMOND A	RMC 2d Lt	MIA Mrs. Ella Borg, mother, 4211 Decatur St. Omaha, Nebraska
(2) Co-P	CROTHERS, THOMAS R JR	RMC	MIA Mr. Thomas R Crothers, Sr. father, 438 W 57 Place, Chicago, Ill.
(3) Nav.	JOLIN, JEAN F	RMC 2d Lt	MIA Mrs. Rose Mary Jolin, mother, 1707 Jones St. Sioux City, Iowa
(4) Emldr	BRYANT, REX E.	RMC 2d Lt	MIA Miss Dorothy J. Bryant, sister, 2816 Ellis Ave, Chicago, Ill.
(5) AEG	ABBOTT, WILTON L	1st/Sgt	MIA Mrs. Minnie Abbott, mother, Rt #2, Simpsonville, S. C.
(6) AEG	ZIEHL, WERNER C	RMC/Sgt	MIA Mrs. Martha Ziehl, mother, Main Rd, Corfu, N.Y.
(7) ROG	WEGNER, ROBERT A	1ST/Sgt	MIA Mr. Harris E. Wegner, father, 105 7th Ave. N., St. Cloud Minn.
(8) AG	KELLEY, ROBERT J	RMC/Sgt	MIA Mr. Joseph B. Kelley, father, 15 Royce Rd., Allston, Mass.
(9) G	ANDERSON, JOHN G	S/Sgt	MIA Mrs. Lyda A. Anderson, mother, 25 N. State St. Girard, Ohio
(10) G	LANDBERG, BERT	RMC S/Sgt	MIA Mrs. Ida Hinslaw, mother, 1244 S 18 Ave. Maywood, Ill.

NOV 2 1944

12. IDENTIFY BELOW TH SE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (one only) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SEARCH FOR SAME. CONTACTED LAST BY P.O. SEARCHED CRASH PLANNING

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL No	CONTACTED LAST BY P.O.	SEARCHED	CRASH PLANNING
(1) William W. Skinner	Sgt	18163597			
(2) Raymond O. Ingalls	Sgt	33433348	X		

13. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING.   
 (X) Parachutes were used. ( ) Persons were seen walking away from the scene of the crash   
 ( ) Other reasons (specify)   
 14. ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH, MAP OR SKETCH SHOWING LAST KNOWN LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT.   
 15. ATTACH EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, ESCAPED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.   
 16. ATTACH A DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF SEARCH HERE. No search

3 Inclosures   
 Incl 1-Sketch Date 16 Oct 44   
 Incl 2&3-Statements

Paul V. Hardy   
 Capt, AC Adj.

S T A T E M E N T

16 OCTOBER 1944

ON 13 OCTOBER 1944 I WAS FLYING WITH CAPTAIN STEVE'S CREW AS THE NOSE GUNNER. BEFORE "BOMBS AWAY" I SAW "WHITE DOG" (LT BORG'S SHIP) FLYING TO MY RIGHT. WHEN I SAW IT, IT WAS AT ABOUT 10,000 FEET GOING DOWN IN A STRAIGHT DIVE. IT APPEARED TO HAVE A DIRECT HIT. IT WENT THRU A CLEAR SPOT, A SORT OF A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS DURING ITS DIVE. I THEN SAW IT, STILL IN A DIVE, FINALLY HIT THE GROUND AND EXPLODE, APPEARING LIKE A BIG GAS TANK GOING UP. AFTER THAT I WAS BUSY LOOKING AFTER MY OWN WELFARE AS FLAK CAME THRU MY TURRET. I DID NOT SEE ANY CHUTES COME OUT OR OPEN FROM MY POSITION ON THE PLANE.

*William W. Skinner*

WILLIAM W. SKINNER  
SGT. 778TH BOMB SQ.  
ASN 18163597

10/16/44

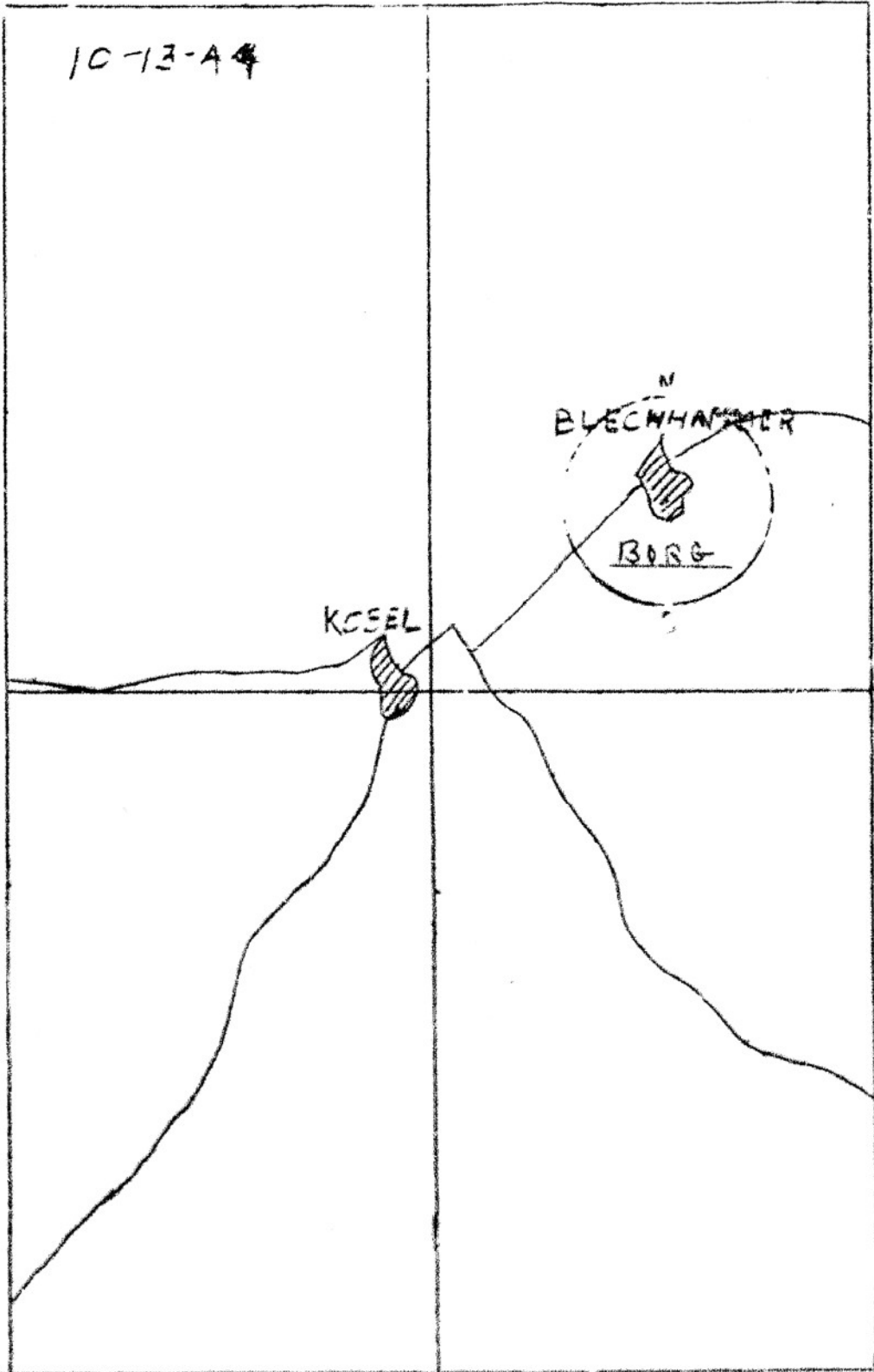
S T A T E M E N T

16 OCTOBER 1944

ON OCTOBER 13 I WAS FLYING WITH CAPTAIN STEVE'S CREW AS A WAIST GUNNER. OUR TARGET WAS BLECHHAMMER, GERMANY. WE HAD FIVE SHIPS IN OUR BOX OVER THE I. P. AT "BOMBS AWAY" HEAVY FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED. I BELIEVE "WHITE DOG (LT BORG'S SHIP) WAS HIT AT THIS TIME. I LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AND SAW "WHITE DOG" TO MY LEFT. IT DISAPPEARED AROUND OUR RUDDER AND LOST ALTITUDE. I THEN SPOTTED IT THRU THE CAMERA HATCH AND SAW IT AT ABOUT 10,000 FEET. LT BORG'S PLANE WAS IN A SPIRAL DIVE, LOSING ALTITUDE TO ABOUT 6000 FEET. IT LEVELED OFF AND I SAW THREE CHUTES OPEN. I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE MEN WAS HIT BY THE RIGHT WING OF THE PLANE IN ITS SPIRAL MOVEMENT. A FEW SECONDS LATER THIS CHUTE OPENED. AT ABOUT THAT SAME TIME I SAW TWO ADDITIONAL CHUTES COME OUT AND OPEN, THEN THREE MORE CAME OUT, APPARENTLY FROM THE NOSE, AND OPEN. THEN THE PLANE WENT INTO A STEEP DIVE AND PASSED INTO SMOKE RISING FROM THE TARGET, THIS BEING AT ABOUT 2000 FEET. THIS IS THE LAST I SAW OF THE PLANE.

*Raymond O. Ingalls*  
RAYMOND O. INGALLS  
SGT. 778TH BOMB SQ  
ASN 33433348

10-13-A4



2nd Lt. Raymond A. Borg

Mrs. Ella S. Borg, (mother)  
4211 Decatur,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

F/O Thomas R. Grothers, Jr.

Mr. Thomas R. Grothers, Sr., (father)  
438 West 97th Place,  
Chicago, Illinois.

2nd Lt. Jean F. Jolin

Mrs. Rose E. Jolin, (mother)  
1707 Jones Street,  
Sioux City, Iowa.

2nd Lt. Rex E. Bryant

Miss Dorothy J. Bryant, (sister)  
2816 Ellis Avenue,  
Chicago, Illinois.

✓ T/Sgt. Wilton L. Abbott ✓

Mrs. Missie Abbott, (mother)  
Rural Free Delivery, Number Two,  
Sixpenceville, South Carolina.

S/Sgt. Werner C. Ziska

Mrs. Martha H. Ziska, (mother)  
Main Road,  
Corfu, New York.

✓ T/Sgt. Robert L. Wagner

DED

Mr. Harrison E. Wagner, (father)  
105 7th Avenue North,  
Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

E/Sgt. Robert J. Kelley

Mrs. Mary E. Kelley, (wife)  
64 Waverly Street,  
Brighton, Massachusetts.

✓ S/Sgt. John G. Anderson ✓

Mrs. Lydia A. Anderson, (mother)  
25 North State Street,  
Girard, Ohio.

S/Sgt. Bert Landberg

Mrs. Violetta E. Landberg, (wife)  
616 S 24th Avenue,  
Bellwood, Illinois.

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name CROTHERS, THOMAS R. JR. Rank F/O Serial No. T-126203  
464 BG. 948 BS.
2. Organization AC Gp Commander Schroeder Rank Col. Sqn CO Wan Puff Rank L.C.  
 (full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month Oct day 13<sup>th</sup> did you go down?
4. What was the mission, Blechhammer, Ger., target, Oil Refinery, target  
 time, 11:20, altitude, 24,000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? Information on target  
left on target.
6. Did you bail out? Yes
7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? No Knowledge
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) No Knowledge
11. Where were they in aircraft? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What was their condition? \_\_\_\_\_
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

## CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name JOLIN, JEAN F. Rank 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Serial No. 2056606
2. Organization 464 Gp Commander SCHROEDER Rank Col. Sqn CO W. PHOFF Rank Lt. Col.  
(full name) (full name)
3. What year 1944 month OCT. day 13 did you go down?
4. What was the mission, OIL REFINERY, target, BLECHHAMMER (GERM) target time, 1122, altitude, 22000 route scheduled, \_\_\_\_\_, route flown \_\_\_\_\_
5. Where were you when you left formation? OVER TARGET
6. Did you bail out? YES
7. Did other members of crew bail out? YES
8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". ALL OTHERS BAILED OUT OVER TARGET INCLUDING SGT. ZIEMM
9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? NEAR TARGET
10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) NO KNOWLEDGE
11. Where were they in aircraft? NO KNOWLEDGE
12. What was their condition? NO KNOWLEDGE
13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? ~~NO KNOWLEDGE~~
14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. \_\_\_\_\_

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: ABBOTT, Wilton L.  
 Rank: T/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 14 062 121  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~BY ENGINEER/ENGINEER~~: Engineer

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN

Where? -

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_

CREW CHECK BEFORE BOMBING RUN

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? WAIST GUN POSITION

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: IT IS

THOUGHT THAT HE WAS KILLED WHEN PLANE  
WAS HIT.

Total number of missions of above crew member: 15

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_



INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name of crew member: WEGNER, Robert A.  
 Rank: T/Sgt.  
 Serial number: 37 564 413  
 Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~AF/FA/1st/1st/1st/1st~~: Radio Operator - Gunner

Did he bail out? UNKNOWN

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: \_\_\_\_\_

CREW CHECK BEFORE BOMB RUN

Was he injured? UNKNOWN

Where was he when last seen? WAIST GUN POSITION

Any hearsay information: NONE

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: IT IS

THOUGHT HE WAS KILLED WHEN PLANE  
WAS HIT

Total number of missions of above crew member: 15

Dates and destinations if possible: \_\_\_\_\_

